

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-20, 22-24, and 37-44 are pending in the present application; Claims 1, 4, 13, 16, and 41-44 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. (U.S. 2005/0206582) in view of Suyama et al. (U.S. 6,525,699), Claims 4-6, 10, 11, 16-18, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. in view of Sullivan (U.S. 6,377,229), Claims 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, and 24 were indicated as being allowable, and Claims 37-44 were allowed.

Claims 1-3 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. in view of Suyama et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include additional features of the invention. For example, Claim 1 now recites:

...wherein brightness of each of the first two-dimensional images is ~~changed~~ determined independently for each display plane according to a depth position of a display object in a three-dimensional space, wherein brightness of the display object is darker than that of the background plane.

Additionally, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite displaying and brightness of second two-dimensional images

is set to be the same among the display planes irrespective of a depth position of the display object so that the display object is viewed as if it is displayed on the background plane at the depth position.

Thus, according to the present invention, as clearly recited in amended Claim 1, the brightness of each of the first two-dimensional images (a background) is determined independently for each display plane according to a depth position of a display object. On the other hand, the brightness of each of the second two-dimensional images (of a display

object darker than the background) is set to be the same among the display planes irrespective of the depth position of the display object. As a result, the display object is viewed as if it is displayed on the background plane at the depth position. These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Bell et al., Suyama et al., or any other prior art.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Suyama et al. teaches “brightness of each of the second two-dimensional images is set to be the same among the display planes irrespective of the depth position of the display object.” Suyama et al. discloses that, when two-dimensional images with almost equal brightness are displayed on the planes, the object looks as if it lies near to a middle point (col. 11, lines 48-52). However, this is merely a feature of a conventional DFD display. That is, Suyama et al. merely discloses that, by determining brightness of each of the two-dimensional images of an object according to a depth position of the object, the object can be viewed as if it is located at the depth position. Suyama et al. does not suggest the above-identified features recited in the claims. Moreover, Bell et al. does not suggest the above-described features.

Independent Claim 13 is patentable for similar reasons as Claim 1 is patentable.

The claims depending from independent Claims 1 and 13 are patentable for at least the reasons independent Claims 1 and 13 are patentable.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 13-15 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6, 10, 11, 16-18, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. in view of Sullivan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent Claim 4, this claim has been amended to recite “wherein brightness of the display object is brighter than that of the background plane.” Moreover, in the last paragraph of independent Claim 4, the claim now recites “so that the display object is viewed as if it is displayed on the background plane at the depth position.” In Claim 4, the

transparency of each of the first two-dimensional images (of background) is determined independently for each display plane according to a depth position of a display object. On the other hand, transparency of each of the second two-dimensional images (of the display object brighter than the background) is set to be the same among the display planes irrespective of the depth position of the display object. As a result, the display object is viewed as if it is displayed on the background plane at the depth position. Such features are neither disclosed nor suggested by any prior art of record.

Independent Claim 16 is patentable for similar reasons as Claim 4 is patentable.

The claims depending from Claims 4 and 16 are patentable for at least the reasons independent Claims 4 and 16 are patentable.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 4-6, 10, 11, 16-18, 22, and 23 are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

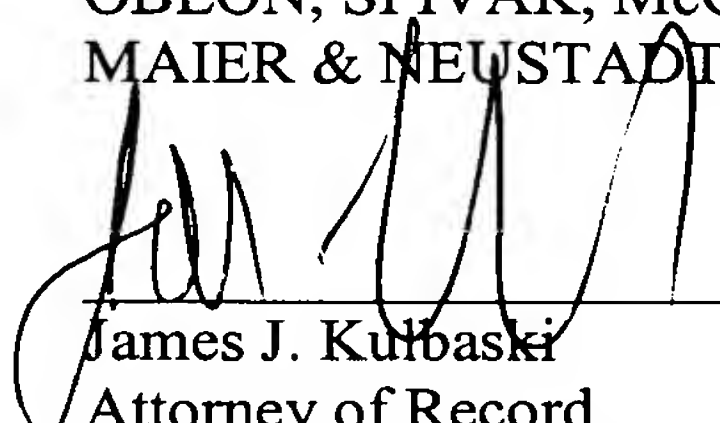
Respectfully submitted,

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